

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated June 21, 2005. Claims 7 to 11 remain in the application, each of which is independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the Examiner's indication that Claims 7 to 11 contain allowable subject matter, and were merely objected to. Based on that indication, each of Claims 7 to 11 has been rewritten in independent form. In addition, Claim 11 has been further amended to attend to the Examiner's objections noted at page 2 of the Office Action.

Claims 1 to 6 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent 6,547,363 (Shinada) in view of U.S. Patent 5,737,300 (Ota), and Claim 12 was rejected further in view of U.S. Patent 5,049,898 (Arthur). Without conceding the correctness of these rejections, Claims 1 to 6, 12 and 13 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter, in an effort to obtain an earlier allowance of the subject application and to expedite issuance. It is Applicants' current intention to file a divisional application directed to the substance of these rejected claims. Accordingly, this should be viewed as a traversal of the rejections.

Regarding a formal matter, an Information Disclosure Statement was hand-filed on June 23, 2005, and apparently crossed in the mail with the instant Office Action. Accordingly, a Letter Submitting Fee for Information Disclosure Statement, together with a copy of the Information Disclosure Statement dated June 22, 2005, accompanies this Amendment. Consideration of the art cited therein is respectfully requested.

Additionally, a Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement accompanies this Amendment. The aforementioned fee should be applied to this